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[Reports to the Surgeon-General United States Marine-Hospital Service.]

The Doric and Lawton arrive at San Francisco, having had smallpox en route.

SAN FRANCISCO QUARANTINE STATION,

Angel Island, April 25, 1901.

SIR: I have the honor to report the arrival at this station on April 17, of the British steamer *Doric*, from Hongkong, and of the army transport *Lawton*, from Manila, each with a history of smallpox aboard en route.

The case on the *Doric* was in the person of the chief officer, who developed his first symptoms—headache, backache, and fever—on March 29. He continued on duty until the 31st, when the symptoms became aggravated and he was confined to bed. An erythematous eruption appeared on the face, neck, and abdomen, which, within a few hours, showed evidence of becoming papular. Smallpox was suspected and the case promptly isolated in the hospital aft. A man, protected by having had an attack of smallpox several years before, was selected to attend the case and went into isolation with him. After that there was no communication between the officer suffering with the disease and any other persons aboard, with the exception of the ship's surgeon, who exercised the necessary precautions to prevent any infection being carried by his clothing.

The room from which the case was taken is one of four in a house on the spar deck forward, which is used exclusively by the European officers of the deck department. This section was given a preliminary fumigation with formaldehyd gas, after which all baggage, bedding, etc., from the chief officer's room was either destroyed or removed to the isolation hospital and the room disinfected with sulphur dioxide, washed down with bichloride of mercury solution, and painted.

The steerage passengers had been vaccinated several days before and as soon as the case of smallpox was diagnosed the ship's surgeon vaccinated all the members of the European crew and the majority of the cabin passengers. This exhausted the supply of vaccine. The oriental crew, the surgeon informed me, are vaccinated about every six months and he considered them protected.

On April 9 the case was removed from the vessel and sent to the hospital at Honolulu. All baggage, bedding, etc., which had been exposed to infection in the isolation hospital aboard the vessel was either sent ashore or destroyed, and the hospital thoroughly disinfected and painted.

Upon arrival at this station no other case of suspicious illness had developed aboard, so after a careful inspection and vaccination of all persons aboard, the vessel was given pratique. The above report is based on statements made by the master and surgeon of the *Doric* who made affidavit to the effect that these statements were true.

The history of the outbreak on the transport *Lawton* was as follows:

On March 17, when the vessel was one day out from Manila, one of the regimental officers presented himself with a severe headache and backache, and a temperature of 103.8° F. The next day an erythematous flush of face, neck, and abdomen appeared. Smallpox was suspected, and the case was confined to his stateroom and as completely isolated as was practicable. The other officers who had been occupying the same stateroom that the suspect was in went into isolation with him. Fortunately one of these officers was a physician, and so a close observation was made of the symptoms as they developed. The eruption became papular on March 21 and the diagnosis was no longer in doubt.

The 2 officers in the room with the case were then, after a change of clothing, sent to another stateroom, and the smallpox case continued in isolation in the room where he was first affected. All persons aboard had been vaccinated the day after leaving Manila. On March 23, the transport having arrived at Nagasaki, the case was sent ashore, all exposed textile fabrics removed with the case disinfected or destroyed, and the room thoroughly disinfected with sulphur dioxide gas, followed by a scrubbing with a strong solution of bichloride of mercury. The Japanese quarantine authorities at Nagasaki bathed, and disinfected the body clothing of, all persons aboard the vessel and fumigated the staterooms, troop decks, and forecastle. The transport left Nagasaki on March 24, and on March 26 a second vaccination was made of all persons who did not have "a take" from the vaccination made just after leaving Manila.

On March 31 the 2 officers who occupied the stateroom with the smallpox case to the time that the eruption became papular developed suspicious symptoms. They were removed immediately to the isolation hospital, all baggage, bedding, etc., in their room being either taken with them to the hospital or destroyed and the room disinfected.

Within two or three days after these 2 suspects had been isolated in the hospital, symptoms appeared, and each proved to be a well-marked case of smallpox.

The isolation hospital on the *Lawton* is well located, being aft, just over the stern of the vessel, and not communicating directly with any living apartments.

Two hospital corps men detailed to attend the cases were also isolated in the hospital, the only passageway leading to the hospital being kept guarded continually, and no one communicated with those in isolation except the transport surgeon, who changed clothing and bathed after each visit to the ward.

On April 7 the 2 smallpox cases, with their attendants, were turned over to the health authorities at Honolulu and taken ashore. All exposed baggage and bedding was sent ashore or destroyed, after which the isolation hospital was thoroughly disinfected by repeated fumigation with sulphur dioxide and washing with bichloride of mercury solution. No other suspicious cases had developed aboard to April 17 when the vessel arrived at San Francisco.

The above history of development and measures taken to suppress smallpox on the transport *Lawton* is based on statements made by the transport surgeon, to the salient points of which affidavit was made by him.

To sum up it appears, first, that case No. 1 contracted his infection in Manila, cases Nos. 2 and 3 contracted their infection from case No. 1 while confined to same stateroom with him; second, that disinfection practiced at Nagasaki was effective, since no one was affected afterwards besides the 2 men certainly exposed before this disinfection was done; third, that the isolation of cases Nos. 2 and 3 was good, and fourth, that focus of infection established in the isolation hospital by cases Nos. 2 and 3, judging by the measures adopted, must have been entirely obliterated at Honolulu.

The *Lawton* arrived at this station late in the afternoon of April 17, and inspection revealed nothing in the least suspicious, excepting 2 cases of fever, both of which had had chills earlier in the day. These cases were among the steerage passengers and there was a history of malaria in both cases.

The vessel was held in quarantine until the next morning, when the

2 fever cases of the evening before, were satisfactorily proved to be malarial, so that after a second careful inspection of all persons aboard pratique was given. * * *

Respectfully,

L. L. LUMSDEN,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S., in Temporary Charge.

Smallpox on the steamship Caithness at Port Townsend, Wash.

PORT TOWNSEND, WASH., April 30, 1901.

SIR: Regarding smallpox on board the British steamship *Caithness*, from Mororan via Comox, I have the honor to make the following report:

The first man, a sailor, was taken sick two days before leaving Mororan. Apparently, he contracted his infection in Tsing Tau, which place they had left ten days before and where the vessel had lain two weeks. His case was a mild one and he was never very sick. Five other mild cases followed among the sailors and firemen. On arrival here the first case had practically recovered. There were 5 mild cases in the papulopustular stage, 1 severe case in the papular stage, and another man who had been coming down with the disease for a day or two and on whom the rash had not yet appeared, making 8 cases in all. The last case has become confluent and his condition is serious.

The usual procedures as to disinfection and vaccination were taken and the ship and all hands, including the Victoria pilot, are now being detained the full fifteen days. Mr. Klocker, ship agent, and Customs Inspector Lehr, who had been exposed to the infection, were also taken to the station, bathed, their clothing disinfected, vaccinated, and detained five days until it was clear that their vaccination was successful. Mr. Bartlett, a ship agent, who had been on the ship's ladder, was given a bichloride bath, vaccinated, and his clothes disinfected.

If no new cases break out the vessel and well members of the crew will be discharged next Sunday. * * *

Respectfully,

M. H. FOSTER,
Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

Smallpox among the Indians at Sitka, Alaska.

SITKA, ALASKA, April 9, 1901.

SIR: Upon my arrival here, Special Deputy Collector McNair called my attention to the prevalence of smallpox among the Indians, and to the letter of the collector of customs of February 14, 1901, reporting the fact.

As it was spreading and nothing being done to stop it, I advised him to employ a physician at such time as the steamers were here to inspect both incoming and outgoing passengers. This has been done, and measures have now been taken to confine the disease to the Indians. It is of a very mild form, and it is believed will soon disappear. Until such time an inspection will be continued, and it is hoped this is all that will be necessary, and will stop it being carried to other places.

It is also reported that various places in the district are infected, but as nothing definite is known, it is not thought to be dangerous.

Respectfully,

D. H. JARVIS,
First Lieutenant R. C. S., Acting Special Agent.
HON. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.